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Statistical Study of Influenza Outbreak

Dr. H. O. Swartout, Director of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control of Los Angeles County Health Department, recently compiled a statistical study of the influenza epidemic that occurred in Los Angeles County between November 15, 1940, and January 31, 1941. During that period there were 23,487 cases reported throughout the entire county including all cities, representing a territory inhabited by approximately 2,800,000 people. During the 11 weeks of the epidemic the number of cases reported each week were as follows: 129; 2,354; 6,077; 4,777; 2,535; 1,581; 1,493; 1,651; 1,046; 927 and 917. The numbers of cases for the week immediately preceding and the week immediately following this epidemic were 55 and 212, respectively, as compared with the previous five-year average figures of 24 and 406 for corresponding weeks.

Employees of the Los Angeles County Health Department acted as a survey group. They live in places scattered throughout the county, including most of its cities. While the group includes a disproportionate number of persons living alone and the households represented therefore have a disproportionately small percentage of children, considerable data of value were collected.

A simple questionnaire was sent to each of the employees of the department. Nearly all responded. Of the cards that were returned a few had incomplete data, but adequate information was given by 388 employees. These 388 cards represented 1,082 individuals. Of these, 459 were males, 623 were females; 100 were under 10 years of age, 109 were between 10 and 20 years of age and 873 were adults between 20 and 80 years of age.

Of the 388 households reporting, 200, representing 482 individuals, had no cases of influenza during the epidemic period. These households averaged 2.41 persons each. The remaining 188 households, representing 600 individuals, an average of 3.19 persons each, had 370 cases of influenza or 1.97 cases per household.

It would appear that the disease tended to strike the larger households harder and when it struck a household it tended to affect the majority of persons in it. In the households that had any cases at all, 61.6 per cent of the members were stricken with the disease. Among the 459 males, 42.4 per cent of the whole, there were 153 cases, or 41.4 per cent of the total. The 623 females, 57.6 per cent of the group, had 217 cases of influenza or 58.6 per cent of the total. There was, therefore, no significant difference in the incidence of the disease among the sexes.

Individuals under 10 years old represented 9.2 per cent of the individuals surveyed and 12.2 per cent of the cases. Those between 10 and 20 years of age constituted 10.1 per cent of the individuals surveyed and 12.7 per cent of the cases. Adults represented 80.7 per cent of those surveyed and 75.1 per cent of the cases. These differences indicate the possibility that younger members of the population surveyed were somewhat more susceptible to influenza than those who were older.

Of the 1,082 individuals covered by the survey, 370 claimed to have had influenza—a figure that would represent a morbidity of approximately 34 per cent. Although the personnel of the county health department are better acquainted with the nature of influenza than the average citizen of the county, diagnosis

of the disease is difficult; and some of those who thought they had influenza were probably mistaken. In more than a third of the cases reported on the questionnaire cards, however, the diagnosis was made by physicians.

While it is not justifiable to apply the results of this survey of a selected group too closely to the general population of the county, it is interesting to note that if even 25 per cent instead of 34 per cent of the people living in Los Angeles County suffered from influenza, there would have been no less than 700,000 cases during the epidemic. Actually, there were only 23,487 cases reported.

INDIAN SERVICE TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

Dr. Horace DeLien, special physician in tuberculosis control of the Indian Service, for California, Nevada and Utah, with headquarters in San Francisco, California, has been assigned to the duties of special expert in tuberculosis, formerly held by Dr. Joseph A. Aronson.

Under the new assignment, Dr. DeLien will continue the studies in vaccination with BCG which were initiated by Dr. Aronson. Vaccinated groups and controls among Indian children are being observed in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Arizona and Alaska. Dr. DeLien will continue to supervise the general tuberculosis control program of the Indian Service in the States under his former assignment.

Dr. Aronson has been called to duty in the U. S. Army.

Nuisances have always constituted a common source of difficulty in public health administration. The control of nuisances is perhaps the most common and the most aggravating of all problems that the local health officer must deal with. A very large proportion of complaints relative to nuisances that are received by local and State health officers are not valid. The most common form of attempted vengeance is the filing of a nuisance complaint. Quarreling neighbors suddenly discover that a health menace exists on the property of each other. A discharged employee in a food dispensing place or a labor camp, after his dismissal, discovers that gross insanitation prevails in the institution where he had been employed. It is necessary that a group of individuals be affected in order to prove that a nuisance exists. It is well that this is so; otherwise, great injustices might occur.

The word "impossible" is to a scientist much like a spur to a horse.

—WILLIAM D. COOLIDGE,
Research Director.

REGULATE USE OF MERCURY BY HATTERS

The California State Board of Public Health at its meeting held in San Francisco, July 26, adopted the following regulations pertaining to the use of certain mercury products in hat manufacturing:

Regulations Governing the Use of Hatters' Mercurial Carroting Solutions

Section 1.

Definitions: For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of these regulations the following terms are defined:

Hatters' Fur is any animal fiber or other substance used in the manufacture of hats, which is treated or otherwise prepared by the process of, or, in a manner similar to that of carroting.

Carroting is the process of treating hatters' fur with mercury nitrate or any other solution or material for the purpose of rendering the hatters' fur suitable in the manufacture of hats.

Mercurial carrot is any solution or material containing mercury or its compounds in combination with nitric acid or other materials and used in the carroting or preparation of hatters' fur.

Section 2.

Effective December 1, 1941, the use of mercurial carrot in the preparation of hatters' fur, or the use of mercurial carroted hatters' fur in the manufacture of hats, is prohibited.

Provided, That any hat manufacturer or fur cutter having mercurial carroted hatters' fur on hand December 1, 1941, may use said fur until it is consumed.

DR. HALVERSON GOES TO LOS ANGELES

Dr. Wilton L. Halverson, who has been City Health Officer of Pasadena for the past eight years, has been appointed to the post of Health Officer of Los Angeles County, vacated in March through the death of Dr. John L. Pomeroy who had served for more than 25 years. Dr. Halverson has been particularly successful at Pasadena and all public health workers in California extend felicitations for the expanded opportunities that have been given to him in the larger field of work.

The only joy in the day, or the year, or the life-time, consists in sharing in some measure whatever is at hand.

—ADOLF A. BERLE, JR.,
Assistant Secretary of State.

CHANGES AMONG HEALTH OFFICERS

Dr. Clarence H. Schilt of Redding has been appointed Health Officer of Shasta County to succeed Dr. Thomas D. Wyatt.

Dr. Lloyd R. Hennig of Willows has succeeded Dr. Francis H. Gambell as Health Officer of Glenn County.

Dr. Frank M. Gardner is now City Health Officer of San Bernardino in place of Dr. G. Stirling Landon.

The City of Riverside, which has heretofore placed its public health administration under the county health unit, has withdrawn and Dr. Wayne K. Templeton is now City Health Officer.

The City of South Pasadena has entered the Los Angeles County Health Department. Dr. Darius Eshoo has heretofore served as City Health Officer.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY GETS DR. FOX

Riverside County has secured the services of Dr. Warren F. Fox of El Centro who has been Health Officer of Imperial County since its establishment in 1930. Dr. Fox has been particularly successful in the solution of difficult public health problems in that county. Health workers throughout the State congratulate him upon entrance to his new duties.

The load of tomorrow added to that of yesterday, carried today, makes the strongest falter. Shut off the future as tightly as the past. No dreams, no visions, no delicious fantasies, no castles in the air, with which, as the old song so truly says, "hearts are broken, heads are turned." To youth, we are told, belongs the future, but the wretched tomorrow that so plagues some of us has no certainty, except through today. Who can tell what a day may bring forth? Though its uncertainty is a proverb, a man may carry its secret in the hollow of his hand. Make a pilgrimage to Hades with Ulysses, draw the magic circle, perform the rites, and then ask Tiresias the question. I have had the answer from his own lips. The future is today—there is no tomorrow! The day of a man's salvation is now—the life of the present, of today, lived earnestly, intently, without a forward-looking thought, is the only insurance for the future.

—William Osler, M.D., 1913

"Government is not mere advice; it is authority, with power to enforce its laws."—Washington.

REVISED LIST OF REPORTABLE DISEASES**Reportable Only:****Anthrax**

Botulism—if commercial product notify State Department of Health at once.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

Dengue—keep patient in mosquito free room.

Epilepsy**Food Poisoning**

Glanders—report by phone or telegraph.

Jaundice—infectious or epidemic types.

Malaria—keep patient in mosquito free room.

Pneumonia—specify type of pneumococcus, if known.

Relapsing fever**Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever****Tetanus****Trichinosis****Tularemia****Undulant fever****Reportable and Subject to Isolation:**

Epidemic diarrhea of the newborn (in institutions)

Chickenpox

Dysentery—Amoebic

Dysentery—Bacillary—specify type, if known.

German Measles**Influenza****Measles****Mumps****Ophthalmia Neonatorum****Psittacosis**

Rabies—in animals. Use special card.

Rabies—in humans.

Septic Sore Throat (in epidemic form).

Trachoma

Tuberculosis—use special card.

Whooping Cough

Syphilis—use special card.

Gonorrhea—use special card.

Chancroid—use special card.

Lymphopathia Venereum—use special card.

Granuloma inguinale—use special card.

Reportable and Subject to Quarantine and Placarding:

Cholera—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.

Diphtheria

Encephalitis (Infectious)—specify type, if known.

NOTE: This means all forms of acute encephalitis such as St. Louis type, equine type, and any other epidemic form occurring in California.

Leprosy

Meningitis (due to the meningococcus).

Paratyphoid Fever—specify type A or B.

Plague—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis**Scarlet Fever****Smallpox****Typhoid Fever****Typhus Fever**

Yellow Fever—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending July 19, 1941

Chickenpox

214 cases: Alameda County 4, Berkeley 8, Oakland 9, Antioch 1, Fresno County 2, Fresno 5, Tehachapi 1, Los Angeles County 20, Alhambra 2, Glendale 3, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 37, Pasadena 10, Pomona 2, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Merced County 1, Fullerton 3, Newport Beach 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 1, Upland 10, San Diego County 5, San Diego 23, San Francisco 9, San Joaquin County 6, Lodi 2, Stockton 1, Burlingame 2, Santa Mateo 6, Santa Barbara 8, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Sonoma County 2, Petaluma 3, Stanislaus County 1, Visalia 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 3.

Diphtheria

13 cases: Oroville 2, Fresno 1, Corcoran 1, Lemoore 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Red Bluff 1.

German Measles

138 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 4, Fresno County 1, Bishop 1, Los Angeles County 20, Glendale 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 5, Monrovia 2, Pasadena 3, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 1, Monterey County 2, Carmel 1, Monterey 3, Orange County 2, Anaheim 2, Santa Ana 3, Seal Beach 4, Riverside 1, Sacramento 6, Upland 2, San Diego County 2, San Diego 11, San Francisco 8, San Joaquin County 4, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo 3, Daly City 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Maria 4, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 1, Sonoma County 1, Petaluma 1, Santa Rosa 1, Stanislaus County 1, Sutter County 1, Yolo County 1, Winters 4.

Influenza

31 cases: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 9, South Gate 1, Laguna Beach 1, Sacramento County 1, San Francisco 1, San Jose 1.

Malaria

10 cases: Imperial County 1, Long Beach 1, Monrovia 1, Yuba County 2.

Measles

155 cases: Berkeley 4, Oakland 4, Humboldt County 1, Eureka 2, Fortuna 1, Inyo County 2, Los Angeles County 15, Avalon 7, Glendale 4, Huntington Park 3, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 16, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 1, San Marino 1, South Gate 3, Bell 1, Monterey County 14, King City 1, Monterey 1, Pacific Grove 1, Calistoga 3, Napa 4, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 1, Hemet 8, Sacramento 1, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 1, Upland 1, San Diego 7, San Francisco 4, Stockton 1, Tracy 2, San Luis Obispo County 4, San Mateo County 2, Daly City 2, Redwood City 1, Santa Cruz County 3, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 1, Modesto 5, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 2, Ojai 1, Winters 1, Yuba County 1.

Mumps

287 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 9, Butte County 2, Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, El Centro 1, Bakersfield 1, Delano 1, Los Angeles County 15, Alhambra 4, Burbank 4, Compton 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 37, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 5, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 4, Maywood 1, San Rafael 1, Yosemite 1, Gustine 1, Monterey County 2, Carmel 1, Orange County 6, Fullerton 6, Newport Beach 2, Orange 2, Santa Ana 8, La Habra 1, Laguna Beach 1, Tustin 6, Corona 6, Indio 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 3, Redlands 4, San Bernardino 2, Upland 1, San Diego County 4, Coronado 1, San Diego 72, San Francisco 19, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 1, Stockton 3, San Mateo County 5, Menlo Park 1, Lompoc 4, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 5, Solano County 1, Sonoma County 2, Stanislaus County 1, Turlock 4, Oxnard 1, Ventura 2, Yuba County 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

56 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Fresno 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 8, Arcadia 1, Los Angeles 20, Redondo 1, San Fernando 1, Gustine 1, Napa 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego County 1, National City 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 8, Siskiyou County 1, Vallejo 1, Turlock 1.

Scarlet Fever

43 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 3, Fresno County 1, Brawley 1, El Centro 1, Inyo County 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 5, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 7, Manhattan 1, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, South Gate 3, Newport Beach 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego 2, San Francisco 2, Stockton 1, Burlingame 1, Shasta County 1, Ventura County 2.

Smallpox

One case: Bishop.

Typhoid Fever

7 cases: Imperial County 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 1, Merced County 1, Grass Valley 1, Redlands 1, Shasta County 1.

Whooping Cough

417 cases: Alameda County 7, Berkeley 12, Oakland 10, San Leandro 3, Butte County 3, Contra Costa County 2, Fresno 11, Selma 2, Brawley 1, Inyo County 2, Bishop 5, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 28, Alhambra 1, Burbank 1, Claremont 1, Compton 1, Glendale 2, Hermosa 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 58, Monrovia 5, Pasadena 22, Pomona 4, Santa Monica 3, South Gate 1, Maywood 2, Mill Valley 1, Monterey County 7, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 4, Newport Beach 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 15, Colton 1, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 1, Upland 4, San Diego County 15, Coronado 1, San Diego 69, San Francisco 24, San Joaquin County 27, Lodi 1, Stockton 3, Tracy 1, Redwood City 2, San Mateo 1, Belmont 2, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 6, Santa Maria 4, Santa Clara County 1, Mountain View 1, San Jose 2, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 2, Modesto 1, Turlock 7, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 2, Ventura County 2, Ventura 1, Yolo County 3.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case: San Francisco.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

6 cases: Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, Merced County 1, Sacramento 1, Ontario 1, Upland 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

69 cases: Fresno 1, Los Angeles 11, Manhattan 1, Monterey County 1, San Diego 1, Sonoma County 2, Visalia 1.

Poliomyelitis

One case: San Francisco.

Tetanus

One case: California.*

Trachoma

One case: Fresno County.

Paratyphoid Fever

5 cases: Los Angeles 5.

Trichinosis

One case: Santa Maria.

Food Poisoning

28 cases: Los Angeles 28.

Undulant Fever

8 cases: Lemoore 1, South Gate 1, Bell 1, Ross 1, Beaumont 1, Sacramento 1, Ontario 1, Sonoma County 1.

Epilepsy

30 cases: Alameda County 1, Butte County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 20, Pomona 1, Orange 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, San Mateo County 2.

Rabies (Animal)

9 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 4, Alturas 1, Porterville 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Man's intellectual and spiritual destiny is in no small degree determined by what and how he reads. As reading is a mark of civilized peoples, so it is of individuals who grow and progress. Its importance, which arose with the art of writing, mounted rapidly after the invention of printing, and reached its present climax through the wide diffusion of books.—
Leon J. Richardson.

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